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A

PLAN

For the eſtabliſhing a

WORKING-SCHOOL,

FOR THE

Maintenance, Education, and Employment of POOR CHILDREN, eſpecially ORPHANS.

AND ALSO

RULES for the Execution and good Government thereof.

Propoſed to the Conſideration of all who are or may be SUBSCRIBERS thereto.

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A

PLAN

For the eſtabliſhing a

WORKING-SCHOOL, &c.

AMONGST the various Objects calling for Compaſſion, and the Aids of Charity, Poor Children, eſpecially Orphans, always have been juſtly eſteemed ſome of the Principal. Witneſs, amongſt other excellent Inſtitutions, the great number of Charity Schools, in and about this City, erected and ſupported with the kindeſt Deſign, and at no ſmall Expence.

And yet Experience has long ſhewn, how ineffectual theſe are to promote their valuable Intention; how little they anſwer the Expence at which they are carried on. Their Defects are too obvious to need enumerating; the Subject of Daily Complaint; and lamented moſt by thoſe who are moſt converſant in ſuch Matters. Children are formed for Stations above what Providence deſigned them, or the public Good requires. In the Intervals between Learning, they are left expoſed to all the Snares of Indigence, evil Example, and bad Company. And for want of being trained to Induſtry and

Diligence, contract Habits of Sloth and Idleneſs, and are ſadly expoſed to the Temptations thereof.

Strange therefore it would be, if in an Age ſo diſtinguiſhed for Charity as the preſent is, this important Object of it ſhould alone be neglected: And that while ſo many are wiſhing for ſomething further to be done, none ſhould attempt it.

Such an Attempt is now made: and a Plan propoſed to rectify former Inconveniencies; and to promote the very important Deſign of forming young ones for Piety, Virtue, and Diligence. A Plan, whereby POOR CHILDREN, ORPHANS eſpecially, will be provided with every thing neceſſary; kept as much as poſſible from the Temptations of Vice, and the Diſtreſſes of Indigence; and the utmoſt care be taken to form them for their proper Stations, by training them up to honeſt Labour and Induſtry; and teaching them nothing, but what, for our own ſakes as well as theirs, one would wiſh the loweſt of our Domeſtics ſhould learn.

An important and extenſive Charity this will be acknowledged to be, not only with reſpect to the preſent and everlaſting Happineſs of it's immediate Objects, but alſo with reſpect to the Families to which they belong, and to the Public of which they are part.

The prejudice which many have conceived againſt common Charity Schools, ought not to lie againſt this, which is propoſed to rectify their Defects, and is formed upon ſo very different and a much larger Plan.

All poſſible Care has been taken, to keep this Charity as free from religious Party, as it's general Nature requires, or

it's

it's Deſign will admit. Nevertheleſs as it is of evident Importance, that the Children ſhould attend public worſhip under the Eye of the Maſter, and as the majority of Subſcribers are Proteſtant Diſſenters, it is agreed that the Children ſhould attend in ſome Congregation of Proteſtant Diſſenters. This it is hoped will be no Obſtruction to any worthy Perſons of the Eſtabliſhment encouraging this Charity, as ſome ſuch have already generouſly done.

N. B. As Boys and Girls being promiſcuouſly together would be manifeſtly inconvenient, therefore it is propoſed at preſent to admit only Boys; nevertheleſs it is intended to take in Girls alſo, when the Subſcribers at a general Meeting ſhall judge that the State of the Charity will allow of it.

The general PLAN is as follows, *viz.*

I. THAT poor Children not under the Age of ſix Years, nor exceeding that of nine, be conſidered as proper Objects of this Charity; and that the ſtricteſt Regard be had to ſuch as are moſt neceſſitous, eſpecially Orphans.

II. That ſuch Children admitted to this Charity, ſhall be provided with Food, Clothes, Lodging, and every Thing neceſſary for them, until they arrive at the Age of fourteen Years or longer: and then be placed out as Apprentices or Servants, and a Sum given with them.

III. That they be carefully inſtructed in the Principles and Duties of the Chriſtian Religion, as contained in the Holy Scriptures: taught to Read and Write, ſo far as may be neceſſary in any future ſtation: and uſed to ſuch Labour and Work as may be convenient and ſuitable.

IV. That

IV. That they ſtatedly attend the public Worſhip of God, in ſome Congregation of Proteſtant Diſſenters.

As a conſiderable Capital is abſolutely neceſſary to carry on ſuch a Deſign, as well as an annual Subſcription, therefore it is propoſed,

That every Gentleman or Lady, paying at any one time *Thirty Guineas*, ſhall be a Governor for Life.

That any Perſon by whoſe Hands a Legacy or Benefaction of *fifty Pounds* ſhall be paid to this Charity, ſhall be alſo deemed a Governor for Life. And

That every Gentleman or Lady, paying *Five Guineas* and ſubſcribing *Two Guineas* a Year, ſhall be a Governor ſo long as he or ſhe ſhall continue ſuch Subſcription: and ſhall have a right to vote, either in Perſon or by Letter under his or her hand. And that every Governor ſhall ſtand upon an equal footing as to the nomination of Children to this Charity.

Any Benefactions will be thankfully received from thoſe who do not chuſe to become ſtated Subſcribers.

To this Plan many Gentlemen and Ladies have generouſly ſubſcribed. A Committee has been appointed by the Subſcribers at a general Meeting, to prepare Rules for carrying the Plan into execution, and for the good Management of the Charity. Which Rules have been laid before the Subſcribers at another general Meeting: and by them unanimouſly agreed to be printed, and ſent to all the Subſcribers, and others who may be willing to ſubſcribe, for their Inſpection and Conſideration; in order to be approved, or altered, or others added to them, as ſhall be agreed by a majority preſent, at the next general Meeting appointed to be held at the *George*, in *Ironmonger-Lane*, on *Thurſday* the 27th Day of *July* next, at Four of the Clock in the Afternoon.

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The Rules are divided into two general Heads, *viz.*

I. For the general Government of the Charity.

II. For the Admiſſion and Management of the Children.

Under the Firſt, theſe following are propoſed;

I. THAT there be a GENERAL MEETING of the Subſcribers to this Charity, twice in every Year; to wit, the firſt *Wedneſday* in *April*, and the laſt *Wedneſday* in *November*.

II. That at all general Meetings, every Governor ſhall have a Vote, either in Perſon, or by Letter under his or her Hand. And that every thing ſhall be determined by a Majority of ſuch Votes, or by Ballot, if required, by ſeven or more of the Governors then preſent, before a Diviſion upon the Queſtion is made: ſuch Ballot to be immediately entered upon and finiſhed.

III. That a GENERAL COMMITTEE, conſiſting of twenty, be choſen at every general Meeting in *April*. Ten of which ſhall be ſuch as were not of the Committee the former Year: which Committee ſhall meet the ſecond *Wedneſday* in every Month at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon from *May* to *October*: and at Three from *November* to *April*, at the Houſe where

where the Children are kept: And that at ſuch Committee *five* at leaſt ſhall be neceſſary to do Buſineſs; but not proceed thereto, till one Hour after the Time here appointed for Meeting: And that they keep regular Minutes of their Proceedings to be reported at every general Meeting.

IV. That ſuch general Committee ſhall, at every Monthly Meeting, ſettle Proviſions for the enſuing Month: contract for the ſame as they ſhall think proper; provide all wearing Apparel for the Children upon the beſt Terms they are able; allow all neceſſary Expences; and three of them, of which the Chairman for the Time being to be one, ſign all Bills for Payment.

V. That ſuch general Committee do appoint the Time of Day and Place for all general Meetings; and have Power, by a Majority preſent, to ſummon ſpecial general Meetings; giving public as well as particular Notice thereof, at leaſt ſeven Days before the Time; and alſo ſpecifying the Occaſion upon which they are ſummoned.

VI. That ſuch general Committee chuſe from among themſelves a SUB-COMMITTEE, to meet at the Houſe where the Children are on *Wedneſday* in every Week, except that on which the general Committee meet, to receive any Complaints, to inſpect the Children, and to prepare any thing proper to be laid before the general Committee.

VII. That a PRESIDENT be choſen at every general Meeting in *April*, who ſhall be one of all Committees; and, if preſent, be CHAIRMAN in all general Meetings and Committees.

VIII. That

VIII. That a TREASURER be choſen at every general Meeting in *April*, who ſhall be one of all Committees, and in the Abſence of the Preſident, ſhall be CHAIRMAN of all general Meetings and Committees; but in the Abſence of both, a Chairman ſhall be choſen by a Majority then preſent.

IX. That ſuch Chairman, whether Preſident, Treaſurer, or other, in caſe of an equal Number of Votes upon any Queſtion, ſhall have a double or caſting Vote.

X. That whoever ſpeaks ſhall addreſs himſelf to the Chairman: and if two or more offer to ſpeak at a Time, the Chairman determine which ſhall ſpeak firſt.

XI. That the Chairman put all Queſtions; declare the Majority of Votes, and grant a Diviſion, or a Ballot, if regularly demanded.

XII. That all Sums ſubſcribed or given to the Uſe of this Charity, be paid into the Hands of the Treaſurer; who ſhall pay all Bills ſigned as above directed: keep ſo much Caſh as may be neceſſary for the current Expences: and from Time to Time lay out the Remainder in Government Securities, as oft as he and two other Governours, to be choſen by a Majority at a general Meeting, ſhall think proper.

XIII. That a SECRETARY ſhall be choſen at every general Meeting in *April*, who ſhall enter the Accounts in a Book or Books to be provided for that Purpoſe: give out Summons for the general Meetings at the Direction of the general Committee: and collect the annual Subſcriptions.

XIV. That the Secretary attend general Meetings and general Committees, unleſs neceſſarily prevented: and that in his Abſence ſome other be choſen for the Time.

XV. That the Secretary take Minutes of all Proceedings in general Meetings or Committees, and enter them in a Book to be kept for that Purpoſe.

XVI. That the Secretary be allowed
a Year, and all other neceſſary Expences.

XVII. That at the general Meeting to be held the laſt *Wedneſday* in *November* every Year, A SPECIAL COMMITTEE of five Governours ſhall be choſen, to examine all the Accounts relating to this Charity: which Accounts ſhall be reported at the next general Meeting in *April*, ſigned by at leaſt three of the ſaid ſpecial Committee.

XVIII. That in caſe of the Death of the Treaſurer two Months before any half yearly general Meeting, a ſpecial general Meeting ſhall be called by the Committee within three Weeks, for the Choice of another.

XIX. That a Sermon be preached once a Year, recommending this Charity: the Time, Place and Perſon to be appointed by the general Committee; but no Collection to be made. And that the following Notice be ſent to the reſpective Congregations in or about this City, *viz.*

Pleaſe to give Notice, that on being the
Day of a Sermon will be preached at
recommending the Charity for the
Education,

Education, Maintenance and Employment of Orphans, and other poor Children, to begin at

N. B. No Collection will be made.

Under the ſecond general Head, *viz.* Rules for the Admiſſion and Management of the Children, are propoſed theſe that follow:

I. THAT every Governour ſhall have, in his or her Turn, a diſcretionary Right to nominate an Object to this Charity; and it is earneſtly recommended to every ſuch Governour, to have a ſpecial Regard to the moſt neceſſitous Caſes.

II. That a Book be provided, in which ſhall be entered every Governour's Name in Manner and Order, as hereafter directed; by which every one's Turn to nominate an Object ſhall be determined: as alſo the Place of his or her Abode be inſerted.

III. That every one, not a Governour for Life, neglecting to pay his or her annual Subſcription, for the Space of twelve Months after it ſhall become due, be no longer deemed a Governour, nor have any Right to vote or nominate an Object.

IV. That whenever any Child is to be admitted, the general Committee ſhall give Notice thereof to the Governour whoſe Turn it is to nominate, at leaſt one Month before the Time of Admiſſion.

V. That if any Governour, having ſuch Notice, ſhall neglect to nominate, at moſt one Month after the Time thus fixed for Admiſſion, he or ſhe ſhall loſe his or her Turn, and the Nomination go to the next upon the Liſt.

VI. That every Child thus nominated, ſhall be brought to the Houſe, at the ſole Expence of the Governour thus nominating.

VII. That a Certificate ſhall be lodged with the general Committee, from the Officers of the Pariſh to which ſuch Child belongs, and properly atteſted, acknowledging that ſuch Child belongs to them, and that they will receive it if it be returned to them.

VIII. That every Child, before Admiſſion, ſhall be examined by the Apothecary belonging to this Charity, in the Preſence of the general Committee: that none be upon any Account admitted, but what ſhall appear to be free from any infectious Diſtempers: nevertheleſs without prejudicing the Right of the Governour, who ſhall have Notice given him or her, and be at Liberty to nominate another.

IX. That no Child thus admitted, ſhall upon any Pretence be abſent from the Houſe twenty four Hours, without Leave of at leaſt three of the general Committee: and that for Breach of this Rule, it ſhall be at the Diſcretion of a Majority of the general Committee, abſolutely to exclude him.

X. That an Apothecary be choſen every general Meeting in *April*, to adminiſter Medicine to the Children when they need it, and be paid for the ſame. And that ſome ſkilful Phyſician be deſired to attend, when upon any Emergency he ſhall be applied to.

XI. That

XI. That a Book be kept, in which the Names of the Children ſhall be entered; as alſo their Ages properly atteſted; the Place they come from; the Names of their Parents; the Time of their Admiſſion; and the Name of the Governour by whom nominated.

XII. That the general Committee do, from Time to Time, examine the Behaviour of the Children; inſpect their Clothes and Proviſion; appoint them Work; examine and ſettle the Accounts relative thereto; fix the Hours for working in each Day; appoint proper Encouragements for the Induſtrious; by a Majority determine when any Child or Children may be admitted: and have Power, by a Majority of two Thirds of their whole Number, to turn out any Child for Miſbehaviour; firſt giving timely Notice thereof to the Governour who nominated the ſaid Child.

XIII. That particular Care be taken by the general and ſub Committees, that the Children be kept clean; their Diet wholeſome and proper; and that they be not treated with any undue Severity by thoſe who have the immediate Care of them.

XIV. That they ſhall have once a Year a new Coat, Waiſtcoat, and Breeches, and ſuch other Things as the general Committee ſhall find neceſſary. And that, beſides this Suit, every one ſhall have, at his firſt Admiſſion, what may be fit for common Uſe, or to work in, at the Diſcretion of the Committee.

XV. That their Cloths ſhall be plain; and not diſtinguiſhed by any particular make or colour; but varied from Time to Time, as the Committee ſhall think proper.

XVI. That

XVI. That Bibles and Teſtaments be provided for the uſe of the Children; to be diſtributed among them at the Diſcretion of the Committee; and alſo Spelling Books by which to teach them to read.

XVII. That no Perſon be allowed to give them Money; and that an Inſcription be fixed, in ſome conſpicuous Place, ſignifying the ſame.

XVIII. That a Maſter be annually choſen at the general Meeting in *April*; and upon any great Miſbehaviour, or upon his Death, a general Meeting ſhall be ſummoned for the choice of another.

XIX. That from eight of the Clock to eleven in the Forenoon, on *Monday*, *Wedneſday*, *Thurſday* and *Saturday*, in every Week, he teach them to read; and the ſame Hours on *Tueſday* and *Friday*, in every Week he teach them to Write; and alſo teach them ſuch Catechiſm, as any Governour ſhall direct, and give to the Child whom he or ſhe ſhall nominate.

XX. That he carefully inſpect and direct the Children in their Work; ſee that they make no unneceſſary Waſte therein; keep a daily Account thereof; lay it before the Sub-committee, to be by them reported to the general Committee, to be entered in a Book to be provided for that Purpoſe.

XXI. That he be tender in correcting the Children; take all poſſible Care to prevent all Impiety and Immorality; and, if his Endeavours be ineffectual, complain thereof to the Committee.

XXII. That Prayer be ſtatedly performed every Morning and Evening, by the Maſter, with the Children, immediately before Breakfaſt and Supper, and a Pſalm or Chapter be read by

by himſelf, or one of the Children at his appointment. And that every Lord's Day, he ſpend ſome Time with them, before and after Public Worſhip, in reading ſome Portion of Scripture or other good Book, in ſinging a Pſalm, in hearing them, or in ſerious talking with them.

XXIII. That he take proper Care, that the Children do not neglect ſecret Prayer; and that they be taught ſome ſhort Forms to aſſiſt them therein.

XXIV. That he be allowed Thirty Pounds a Year and his Board, for his Trouble and Care.

XXV. That if he have a Wife capable of aſſiſting him and taking Care of the Houſe, ſhe alſo ſhall be allowed Ten Pounds a Year and her Board: Or if not, ſome other Perſon appointed by the general Committee, who ſhall be agreeable to the Maſter, and have the ſaid Allowance.

XXVI. That a Girl alſo be allowed as a hired Servant; and ſuch other Help, as the general Committee ſhall judge neceſſary from Time to Time.

Laſtly, That all theſe Rules, and any other that ſhall be from Time to Time appointed, ſhall be entered in the Book, in which ſhall be the Liſt of the Governours Names; and be publicly read by the Secretary at every General Meeting in *November*.

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The Manner and Order of entering the Names of the GOVERNOURS, for fixing their reſpective turns to nominate Objects to this CHARITY, as refered to Rule Second, of Second general Head, is as follows:

IT is propoſed, that there ſhall be a general Meeting of the Subſcribers to this Charity, at
on the Day of
next, at of the Clock, in the
That ſome Perſon or Perſons be appointed to write upon ſeparate pieces of Paper, the Names of all thoſe who are now, or ſhall be before the ſaid Day, Subſcribers to this Charity: as alſo upon other ſeparate pieces of Paper, the Numbers one, two, and ſo on, till the Number of theſe Papers ſhall be equal to thoſe of the Subſcribers: and alſo enter in the Margin of the Book the Numbers 1, 2, and ſo on. That at the ſaid general Meeting, the Names of the Subſcribers, thus written, ſhall be called over, and compared with the Subſcription Books to ſee that none be omitted; and then rolled up and put into a Box or the like: The Papers alſo with the Numbers written thereon, being firſt examined, ſhall be rolled up and put into another Box or the like: That two Perſons be then appointed, one to draw the Names of the Subſcribers one by one; the other the Numbers in like manner: And that every Subſcribers Name and the Place of his Abode, ſhall be entered into the Book, againſt the Number anſwering to that, which ſhall be drawn with his Name, And that after the ſaid general Meeting, the Name of every one who ſhall be a Subſcriber, ſhall be entered in the ſaid Book, exactly according to the order of Time of his or her ſubſcribing. This the Comittee propoſe as the moſt impartial and unexceptionable Method of aſcertaining the turns of Nomination; having nothing in view but to preſerve the Order, and promote the Intereſt of this Charity.